FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

NON-POTABLE WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE,
NORTHEAST HEIGHTS AND SOUTHEAST ALBUQUERQUE

February 2001

U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

SUMMARY

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that the City of Albuquerque's proposed Non-potable Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, Northeast Heights and Southeast Albuquerque would not result in a significant impact on the human environment and does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement. This determination was made in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 1500-1508).

INTRODUCTION

The City of Albuquerque (City) has relied exclusively on deep ground water for its water supply. However, recent studies show that the current City water supply cannot meet either current or future water demand without depleting the aquifer. Without changes in water management, it is estimated that within 60 years, the City will have a shortage of potable water of more than 100,000 acre-feet per year.

To address this shortfall, the City Council adopted the Albuquerque Water Resources Management Strategy (AWRMS) in 1997. The AWRMS involves minimizing the use of ground water, conserving and optimizing the use of the City's existing water resources, and developing alternative water supplies to provide a safe, sustainable, and dependable water supply for the City.

A component of the AWRMS is Non-potable Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, Northeast Heights and Southeast Albuquerque. These proposed projects would use non-potable surface water and polished municipal wastewater effluent to replace the use of high-quality, deep-aquifer ground water for turf irrigation and industrial purposes.

The proposed federal action would be taken by Reclamation and would consist of two elements. One element would involve providing federal funds to the projects. The second element would involve federal concurrence authorizing the City's license agreement to construct diversion facilities within the Rio Grande floodplain. Conditions or obligations associated with these actions include compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Public Law 102-575, Title XVI, Section 1621, as amended by Public Law 104-266, and Public Law 105-62, Section 506 authorizes Reclamation to provide cost sharing for water reclamation and reuse projects. Reclamation has received an appropriation of $6,950,000 for implementation of several water reclamation and reuse projects as identified in the AWRMS. Reclamation would provide a financial contribution subject to appropriations by Congress, not to exceed 25 percent of the total project costs to support feasibility studies and planning, engineering, design, environmental compliance, and construction of the proposed projects. The City is required to contribute at least 75 percent of the project cost. These funds may be obtained from any non-Federal source. The estimated total cost of Non-potable Water Reclamation and Reuse, Northeast Heights

and Southeast Albuquerque is $33 million. Conditions or obligations associated with the funds include demonstration of financial capability to finance the non-Federal share, Department of the Interior approval of the cost-share agreement, preparation of a Feasibility Study that addresses the requirements of Title XVI, and compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND THE PROPOSED ACTION

The alternatives considered include the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. Other alternatives were evaluated and screened out during project planning and feasibility studies development.

Non-potable Water Reclamation and Reuse, Northeast Heights and Southeast Albuquerque would consist of two independent components:

- Non-potable Surface Water Reclamation Project would provide approximately 3,038 acre-feet of water per year to irrigate about 900 acres of parks, golf courses, and greenbelts in the Northeast Heights area. This project would use some of the City's allotment of San Juan-Chama surface water. The water would be diverted from the Rio Grande, and would be mixed with industrial wastewater as part of a separate project in the North I-25 area.

- Southside Water Reclamation Plant Reuse Project would provide -2,455 acre-feet of water per year to irrigate about 700 acres of parks, golf courses, and greenbelts in an area east of the Southside Water Reclamation Plant. This project would also provide 93 acre-feet of water per year for industrial purposes. This entire volume of water would consist of treated wastewater effluent.

These two components represent the second and third steps of the AWRMS and complement the North I-25 Industrial Recycling Project, which has been constructed. Virtually all aspects of the construction, with the exception of the two-500' long horizontal collectors under the riverbed, can be done without restriction to season. Construction of the horizontal collectors will require diversion of the river by temporary cofferdams and dewatering. Consequently, construction of the collectors will be done in the September-March period so as to avoid to the extent possible the spring snowmelt and summer monsoon seasons of high flows in the river.

Thus, for example, if construction of the Non-potable Surface Water Reclation Project were to begin in July 2001, the contractor would mobilize, build construction roads, and begin construction of the Ranney caisson, onshore pump station, and conveyance pipeline as soon as practicable. Construction of these facilities would proceed continuously until completion. Construction of the horizontal in river collectors would not begin until September, or until flows in the river were sufficiently low to allow placement of cofferdams and dewatering equipment. It is anticipated that horizontal collector construction would then proceed until completion in February or mid March of the following year, in advance of the spring snowmelt runoff period that typically begins in late March or early April.

Under the No Action alternative, the City would not build the proposed project. Ground water withdrawals would not be reduced. This action would conflict with the AWRMS and would continue the current depletion of the deep aquifer to meet current and future water demands. The No Action alternative does not meet the project purpose and need.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Based on the environmental assessment (EA) and public comment received, Reclamation has determined that the federal action will not adversely affect the quality of the human environment, with the implementation of the Environmental Commitments described below. A summary of the reasons for a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), discussed in detail in the EA, is as follows:

Water. Water resources addressed surface water, groundwater, water supply, and water quality. The City will take delivery of 2.4 cubic feet per second (1,700acre-feet per year) of its San Juan-Chama allotment. This will slightly increase flows in the Rio Chama and the Rio Grande from Abiquiu Dam downstream to the new subsurface water diversion facility. There will be no change in the Rio Grande flow between the new subsurface water diversion facility and the Southside Water Reclamation Plant outfall, and there will be a slight net decrease in the Rio Grande below the Southside Water Reclamation Plant outfall resulting from the use of approximately 1,430acre feet per year for turf irrigation and industrial uses. This represents an average decrease of approximately 0.17 percent of existing mean monthly flow. The greatest decrease will be about 0.6 percent and will occur during September. This decrease is not expected to adversely affect endangered species, water quality, irrigation water supply, or wetland and riparian resources.

Using the surface water for turf irrigation will eliminate withdrawal of approximately 2,750 acre-feet of ground water per year from the deep aquifer. Reducing this depletion will be considered a beneficial effect of the Proposed Action.

Biological Resources. This resource area addresses fish and wildlife, wetlands, riparian areas, and threatened and endangered species. Direct effects of project construction will result in the permanent removal of up to 1 acre of riparian woodlands and the temporary alteration of 5 to 8 acres of riparian woodlands located around the new subsurface water diversion facility on the Rio Grande. No effects are anticipated to fish or wildlife because of the small magnitudes of change associated with this project. Jurisdictional wetlands will not be affected because none occur in the project area.

No adverse effects are anticipated to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher from either direct or indirect project effects. With the inclusion of the mitigation plan developed for the proposed project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with Reclamation's effects determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow, and "would not destroy or adversely modify its proposed critical habitat." Nor are there affects to the bald eagle or the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Aesthetics/Visual Resources. The Proposed Action will result in the placement of a new pump station for the subsurface water diversion facility in an undeveloped portion of riparian corridor located downstream of the Alameda Bridge. This structure will represent a visual intrusion to the existing natural setting. However, other residential and commercial structures are already visible from the same location. All other project facilities will be located in existing developed areas and will have little effect on the visual or aesthetic resource. All facilities will be designed and landscaped to reduce their visibility.

Traffic and Circulation. Project construction will involve installing pipelines along a total of approximately 81,300 linear feet (15.4 miles) of two-lane city streets and about 95,500 linear feet (18.4 miles) of 4-lane streets, and will cross about 125 intersections. Construction contractors will be required to comply with City ordinances that are intended to minimize traffic congestion and delays. Temporary delays in traffic flow will be anticipated in construction zones.

Soils and Vegetation. Approximately 1,600acres of park, golf course, and open space turf will be irrigated with non-potable water from the Proposed Action. Use of proven water management techniques will ensure that buildup of salts do not occur in the soil, which could affect the health and vigor of the turf. Total residual chlorine concentrations in the non-potable water will be identical to those occurring in potable water that currently is used for irrigation and will not be toxic to irrigated vegetation.

Cultural Resources. The Proposed Action will not directly or indirectly affect any known, registered historical or archaeological sites, or sites proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A cultural resources discovery plan has been approved by Reclamation and the State Historic Preservation Office to address any resources that are unexpectedly encountered during construction.

Socioeconomic Factors. The Proposed Action will cost about $35.1 million, which will include $23.1million for the Non-potable Surface Water Reclamation Project and $12.0 million for the Southside Water Reclamation Plant Reuse Project. Twenty-five percent of this cost will be paid through Reclamation Title XVI grant funds.

The Proposed Action will be expected to generate a maximum of 250 new temporary construction jobs, create an average of about 100 new construction jobs over a 2-year period, and create 6 to 10 new permanent jobs for project operations and maintenance. The Proposed Action will result in a water rate increase of about $2.14 per month per household.

Noise and Vibration. Project construction will involve new construction in roadways, six new pump stations, and three new reservoirs. Construction contractors will be required to comply with City ordinances that are intended to minimize noise effects from construction equipment. Pumps will be operated so that they will not exceed City noise standards.

Human Health and Safety. The trace levels of fecal coliforms in the plant effluent will exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unrestricted urban reuse guidelines for effluent quality. Therefore, chlorine will be used to disinfect the effluent prior to its use for turf irrigation, which will eliminate this water quality concern.

The concentration of iron in the non-potable effluent from the Southside Water Reclamation Plant will exceed the secondary drinking water standard. The presence of iron in this water is not considered a human health concern because the water is not intended for drinking purposes and iron has a low toxicity to humans. The reused water conforms with all EPA urban reuse standards with the exception of fecal coliforms. This water is not potable.

Indian Trust Assets. Reclamation recognizes its legal obligations to identify, protect, and conserve the trust resources of federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal members and to consult with Pueblos and tribes on a government-to-government basis for plans or actions that could affect tribal trust resources, trust assets, or tribal health and safety. Therefore, as part of the coordination activities for this EA, Reclamation issued invitations for government-to-government consultation to six Pueblos in the Albuquerque area and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Coordination with Pueblos and the BIA to identify potential Indian Trust Resources that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Action was completed.

Trust resources identified as a result of these consultations as being of concern included water flows, surface water quality, and riparian areas within the reservation. Effects from the Proposed Action will include the following.

- The Proposed Action will slightly increase river flow through the Pueblos between Abiquiu Dam and the diversion point. It will have no effect on water quality conditions. The relatively small increase in water volume as the Rio Grande passed across the Pueblos will not adversely affect water supply, water quality, or the stability or maintenance of riparian ecosystems of the river banks. The timing of water release will be the same as the historic pattern of water releases, and the water volume and hydrologic changes will be difficult to differentiate from background variations.

- The Proposed Action will not cause any effects to Indian Trust resources, assets, or tribal health and safety from construction or other types of direct site alterations.

Air Quality. Implementing the environmental design features of the Proposed Action as required by the City for construction projects will ensure that the project will not create any temporary, long-term, or cumulative adverse effects to air quality. Albuquerque is an attainment area for air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Justice. The Proposed Action is not anticipated to create any disproportionately high or adverse effects to human health or environmental conditions of minority or low-income communities. The pipeline routes, storage reservoir locations,

and pump station sites will be located throughout the areas frequented by many ethnic and economic groups.

Land Use. The Proposed Action may involve the conversion of existing private or commercial properties to government ownership. The proposed project will not affect any prime or unique farmlands.

Floodplains. Approximately 1 acre of floodplain will be converted to uplands to accommodate the pump station and access road for the subsurface water diversion facility. This alteration will not adversely affect the flood-carrying capacity of the 100-year floodplain.

Recreation. The Proposed Action will not cause the gain, loss, or substantial degradation of any existing recreational use of the project area. Some temporary disruption of trail use and open space character could be associated with construction of the new subsurface water diversion facility and associated pump station.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

For all resources, the Proposed Action that was evaluated included environmental design features and best management practices that are intended to protect environmental aspects of the project area, and mitigation measures that are intended to eliminate or *minimize* potentially adverse changes to environmental resources. The City has committed to incorporating the elements shown in Table 1 into the project design.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
Resource Area – Water		
W-01 [a/]	The City will perform periodic sampling of reclaimed water as defined in the Ground Water Discharge Plan (GWDP, CH2M Hill, 1998d) to confirm that the water quality meets NMED application standards and the City's GPPAP.	EDF [b/]
W-02 (potential)	The City may have to provide environmental commitment measures to address Section 401 water quality certification conditions. These measures, if any, will be described once they are identified.	EDF, MM
W-03	State approval of the GWDP application would be acquired prior to issuing construction permits for the reclaimed water distribution system (GPPAP requirement).	BMP
W-04	The City would ensure that the reclaimed water quality will meet the appropriate user requirements for industry, turf irrigation, and other uses (Albuquerque, City of, 1998; CH2M Hill, 1999), on an ongoing basis.	BMP

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
W-05	The City would meter all use of the reclaimed water by all users.	BMP
W-06	The City would create, maintain, and update an accounting system that would document the proposed projects' effects on the flow regime of the Rio Grande, and would be updated to include the effects of the City's other planned water reclamation and water supply projects. The accounting system would identify the location(s) and quantity(ies) of water removed from the river, the amount returned to the river, and the amount of water that would be depleted because of water use.	EDF
W-07	During installation of the subsurface water diversion facility, the City would require the construction contractor to use appropriate BMPs to minimize and contain the discharge of suspended sediments into the Rio Grande.	BMP
W-08	During installation of the subsurface water diversion facility, the City would require the construction contractor to maintain an open channel in the Rio Grande with a water velocity less than 1 meter/sec	BMP
W-09	Installation of the subsurface water diversion facility would be conducted during the river's low-flow period September through - March, in accordance with Section 404 permit special conditions.	EDF
W-10	A plan to field monitorthe turbidity levels in the river during in river construction will be set up.	EDF
W-11	When developing release schedules for the San Juan-Chama water for the North I-25 Non-potable Surface Water Reclamation project, the City commits to working with the Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of the State Engineer, and Interstate Stream Commission such that releases can be made to benefit the RGSM. However, the City's releases must consistent with State and federal law and must be approved by the Office of the State Engineer. The City's San Juan-Chama water will be released from storage from Abiquiu reservoir in accordance with the conditions set forth in the approved State Engineer's permit. The source of the water is the City's contract with the Secretary of the Interior for San Juan – Chama water from the San Juan – Chama project. The City will be submitting the application for diversion of the City's San Juan – Chama water for this project in January, 2001.	EDF
Resource Area – Biological Resources		
BR-01	During construction in the river, any fish stranded by construction of the coffer dam will be salvaged and relocated to a different portion of the river. An agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff will be available to permit USFWS personnel to move individual specimens of the Rio Grande silvery minnow, if this species inadvertently becomes separated from the main river channel by construction activities.	EDF

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
BR-02	The City will implement all mitigation measures resulting from Reclamation's Section 7 consultation with the USFWS.	MM
BR-03	The City will restore the bosque and Rio Grande in the area affected by the construction of the project to the original condition or better. During development of the technical plans and specifications for restoration of the Rio Grande channel, the City will coordinate with the Corps of Engineers, Fish & Wildlife Service and Interstate Stream Commission to design a channel section that could provide some area of potential habitat for the Rio Grande silvery minnow. If permits and approvals cannot be obtained to construct the channel in that manner, the City will construct the channel to match the existing section as approved.	MM
BR-04	During installation of the subsurface water diversion facility, the City would require the construction contractor to use appropriate BMPs to minimize and contain the discharge of suspended sediments into the Rio Grande.	EDF
BR-05	During installation of the subsurface water diversion facility, the City would require the construction contractor to maintain an open channel (velocity less than 1 meter sec) in the Rio Grande for fish passage around the construction site at all times.	EDF
BR-06	In the year 2000 the City would provide $50,000 to the Albuquerque Aquarium for construction, staffing and monitoring for Rio Grande silvery minnow egg-holding and rearing facilities - to raise eggs to the young-of-the year stage before the fish are released to upstream transplant locations upstream of the San Acacia diversion dam.	EDF
BR-07	Project pipeline alignments have been routed primarily in developed public rights-of-way to minimize activity in undisturbed areas.	EDF
BR-08	Project facilities to be located in the riparian corridor would be sited and sized to minimize the unnecessary loss of cottonwoods and other native vegetation.	EDF
BR-09	The City will revegetate and enhance the bosque in the area affected by the construction and other areas as determined by the Open Space Division. In addition, the City will participate in a joint project with other local, state and federal agencies to be modeled after the Albuquerque Overbank project. The total funding to be committed for these projects is estimated at $60,000.	
BR-10	Temporary materials and equipment stockpile areas at the subsurface water diversion facility construction area would be reclaimed and revegetated with suitable woody trees and shrubs	MM

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
BR-11	In year 2000 the City will provide the USFWS with $33,500 for the collection and transportation of Rio Grande silvery minnows and $17,000 for monitoring and sampling surveys.	MM
BR-12	Installation of the subsurface water diversion facility would be conducted during the river's winter low-flow period of September through March, to avoid to the extent possible the spring snow melt and summer monsoon seasons of high flows in the river, and in accordance with Section 404 permit special conditions.	EDF
BR-13	The City will provide the Fish & Wildlife Service with an annual report detailing the progress of mitigation activities	EDF
Resource Area – Aesthetics and Visual Resources		
AV-01	Appropriate landscaping and interposed wall structures, consistent with the site maintenance, access, and security will minimize visual effect, and prevent vandalism and graffiti. The Public Works Department will coordinate the on-site requirements for construction of project facilities with local and adjacent neighborhood associations.	EDF
AV-02	Reservoir siting and site preparation will minimize vertical intrusion by incorporating lowered elevation (tank base set below surrounding grade where possible), landscapingor blending the base of the tank with existing ground level site contours.	EDF
AV-03	Appropriate landscaping and interposed wall structures, consistent with site access and security, will minimize visual effects.	EDF
AV-04	Appropriate reservoir and wall structure patterns and colors will be used to minimize visual intrusion. The Public Works Department will coordinate the on-site requirements for construction of project facilities with local and adjacent neighborhood associations	EDF
AV-05	Appropriate site access limitations and maintenance activities will be implemented to prevent vandalism and graffiti and to ensure continued visual minimization.	EDF
Resource Area – Traffic and Circulation		
TC-01	The pipeline will be routed in existing utility rights-of-way to minimize length and potential interference with traffic.	EDF
TC-02	The pipeline installation will be bored under major intersections involving state highway crossings to minimize traffic disruption.	EDF
TC-03	The construction contractor will meet City requirements for preparing an impedance analysis and traffic/barricade plan, and will implement appropriate work measures as needed to ensure an adequate level of service on affected streets. This could include such actions as flexible work site scheduling, extended work hours, weekend vs. weekday construction, and non-peak-hour construction.	EDF
Resource Area – Soils and Vegetation		

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
SV-01	The City will provide guidance regarding irrigation management to all reclaimed water users.	EDF
SV-02	The City will monitor monthly the metered use of reclaimed water.	EDF
Resource Area – Cultural Resources		
CR-01	A cultural resources discovery plan will be prepared and finalized through consultation with Reclamation and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), prior to the beginning of construction. The plan will outline procedures for protecting newly discovered cultural resources, evaluating their importance, and avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects from the project. The plan will include procedures for complying with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), in case human remains are discovered.	EDF
CR-02	Precautions will be taken to make sure that archaeological assistance is promptly available in case of a discovery. The discovery plan approved by Reclamation and the SHPO will detail these measures. Work at a site will cease if cultural resources are unearthed during construction. An archaeologist will respond to telephone calls from the site to evaluate the unearthed materials and ensure that uncovered cultural resources are appropriately recorded or avoided.	MM
CR-03	A pedestrian survey and cultural resources documentation has been conducted prior to construction in those sections of the proposed project area that have undisturbed ground surface. An undisturbed ground surface is defined as a landscape surface without extensive human-caused modification. No cultural resources were found during this survey. All previously recorded sites will be avoided be avoided by realigning the project. The inventory phase of the project also identified specific MRGCD facilities that will be affected by the project. The small portions of the irrigation system laterals that will be affected by construction will be rebuilt to their pre-construction condition. Reclamation will consult with SHPO regarding the results of cultural resources identification and avoidance efforts as documented in the cultural resources inventory report.	MM
CR-04	A cultural resources discovery plan has been prepared as part of the cultural resources inventory report. The plan has been approved by Reclamation and will be submitted to SHPO for their approval prior to the beginning of construction.. The plan would outline procedures for protecting newly-discovered cultural resources, evaluating their importance, and avoiding or mitigating the project's adverse effects. The plan would also detail procedures for complying with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), in case human remains are discovered.	EDF

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
CR-05	Historic acequias that are crossed by the proposed non-potable water distribution routes will have less than 1 percent of their total respective areas affected. These acequias would be restored to their present condition if any disturbance to them occurs during the construction of the non-potable water distribution routes.	EDF
CR-06	Before ground-disturbing construction work takes place, a meeting will be held with construction crews to inform them of the potential for disturbing subsurface cultural resources, and the procedures involved in the event that this occurs. This is especially important with regard to exhuming human remains. The nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish at Alameda Boulevard and the San Jose parish will be notified of the construction schedule in the vicinity of their respective parish churches.	EDF
CR-07	Any cultural resources found during construction will be documented and evaluated as to their National Register eligibility. Reclamation will consult with the SHPO regarding the eligibility of these sites. Any eligible sites or eligible portions of the non-potable water distribution system either will be avoided by realigning the project, or a data recovery plan approved by Reclamation and the SHPO will be implemented to mitigate potentially adverse effects.	EDF
CR-08	A final design report will be submitted to the SHPO.	EDF
Resource Area – Socioeconomic Factors		
SE-01	Use existing road and utility rights-of-way as much as possible to reduce permitting and land acquisitions cost and to reduce disruptions to commercial facilities.	BMP
SE-02	Hire local construction personnel to build the projects.	BMP
SE-03	Hire and train local professional or service personnel to operate and maintain facilities so direct and secondary spending remains in the local economy.	BMP
Resource Area – Noise and Vibration		
NV-01	Each construction contractor will be responsible for meeting the noise ordinance requirements of the City (ACC § 6-22, Albuquerque, City of, 1981) for noise control on construction equipment.	EDF
NV-02	Each contractor will adhere to project work hour restrictions (work allowed only between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) within 500 feet of residences and hospitals.	EDF
NV-03	Any potential operational noise from pump stations, reservoirs, or related facilities will adhere to City ordinance requirements (ACC § 6-22, Albuquerque, City of, 1981)	EDF

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
NV-04	Each contractor will arrange the construction schedule to restrict the number of days in one work location within 500 feet of the same residence, hospital, school, church, or library to 4 days.	EDF
Resource Area – Human Health and Safety		
HH-01	The reclaimed water will be appropriately disinfected prior to distribution to water users.	EDF
HH-02	Each construction contractor will comply with the requirements of the City cross-connection ordinance and standards.	EDF
HH-03	The reclaimed water distribution system will use color-coded (purple) pipe to indicate the presence of non-drinking-quality water.	EDF
HH-04	Appropriate signs indicating the use of reclaimed water for turf watering, not for drinking, will be posted at all locations where the recycled water is used for irrigation.	EDF
HH-05	The treatment process for the Southside Water Reclamation Plant Reuse Project would be designed to meet all applicable standards for Unrestricted Urban Reuse.	EDF
Resource Area – Indian Trust Assets		
	There were no envvironmental design features or mitigation measures indicated.	
Resource Area – Air Quality		
AQ-01	Limit the amount of trench that would be open at any time.	BMP
AQ-02	Conform to the BMPs to minimize particulate and dust emissions from construction work sites that are specified in the City excavation, grading, and surface disturbance permits that would be obtained for this project.	BMP
AQ-03	Each construction contractor will be responsible for assuring that construction equipment meets City opacity standards for operating emissions (especially for diesel equipment).	EDF
AQ-04	Each construction contractor will acquire excavation, grading, and surface disturbance permits that specify BMPs to minimize particulate and dust emissions from construction work sites.	BMP
AQ-05	Each construction contractor will adhere to any other requirements placed on the activity, and be subject to inspection by the City to enforce the requirements of the permits and the requirements of 20 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 11.20 (New Mexico, State of, 1997b).	EDF
Resource Area – Land Use		
LU-01	The contractor would adhere to project work hour restrictions (work allowed only between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) within 500 feet of residences, hospitals, and schools.	BMP

Commitment Identification	Environmental Commitment	Type of Commitment
LU-02	Project pipeline alignments would be routed primarily in developed public rights-of-way to minimize activity in undisturbed areas.	EDF
LU-03 (potential)	Open Space, Environmental Land Use Committee (ELUC) land-use approval may require an environmental resource commitment. Commitments will be determined during the approval negotiations.	EDF
Resource Area -- Recreation		
RC-01	While construction occurs in parks or the bosque the construction contractor would have to meet the noise requirements of the City (ACC § 6-22) for noise control on construction equipment.	EDF
RC-02	The contractor would arrange the construction schedule to limit the number of days in a work location within 500 feet of identified trails or recreation facilities.	EDF
RC-03	The City will use standard safety measures to protect existing trail or bicycle path users in areas where trails are temporarily disturbed or blocked by construction. The altered trails or bicycle paths will be restored to their original condition after construction is completed.	BMP
Resource Area – Floodplains		
FP-01	The contractor would adhere to project work hour restrictions (work allowed only between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) within 500 feet of residences.	BMP
FP-02	Project pipeline alignments would be routed primarily in developed public rights-of-way to minimize activity in undisturbed areas.	BMP
Resource Area – Environmental Justice		
	No potential effects requiring commitment measures were identified.	
Resource Area – Public Information		
PI-01	The City will publicize AWRSI projects via the media as these projects go forward. Media could include the City's internet web page, videos, news releases, meetings with stakeholders, Customer Advisory Committee meetings, and City Council meetings.	EDF

a/ Resource area abbreviations:

AV = aesthetics/visual resources	HH = human health and safety	RC = recreation
AQ = air quality		SE = socioeconomic factors
BR = biological resources	LU = land use	SV = soils and vegetation
CR = cultural resources	NV = noise and vibration	TC = traffic and circulation
FP = Floodplains	PI = public information	W = water

b/ Type of commitment abbreviations: BMP – best management practise EDF Environmental design feature MM –Mitigation measure

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The EA was prepared in consultation and coordination with the following entities:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- Forest Guardians,
- Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District,
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish,
- New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources,
- New Mexico Environment Department,
- New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission,
- New Mexico State Engineer Office,
- 1000 Friends of New Mexico,
- Pueblo of Cochiti,
- Pueblo of Isleta,
- Pueblo of Sandia,
- Pueblo of Santa Ana,
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo,
- Pueblo San Felipe
- Six Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblos Coalition,
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The draft EA was distributed to the above organizations and Pueblo governments, local City agencies and government representatives, local homeowners associations, and to members of the public at their request. Notification regarding the availability of the draft EA for public review was published in the *Albuquerque Journal* on July 15, 2000.

Copies of the draft EA were made available for public review at the Albuquerque Public Library Reference Desk (main downtown and North Valley branches), the City of Albuquerque Public Works Department, the Bureau of Reclamation's offices in Albuquerque, and at Parsons Engineering Science's office in Albuquerque. It was also available for public review and comment on a Reclamation web site (http://www.uc.usbr.gov). The Draft EA Summary page was accessed eighty times and the Draft EA document was accessed twenty-three times. Comments were received through August 19, 2000.

A total of three written comment letters were received. Copies of these letters are included in the final EA. No verbal comments were received. Reclamation's responses to significant comments are included in the final EA.

Reclamation submitted a cultural resources consultation request to the SHPO for the Proposed Action on June 23, 2000. The request included a summary of the proposed construction sites and corridor and was intended to identify previously undisturbed ground surface. The SHPO concurred with Reclamation's findings and recommendations in a response dated October 10, 2000. A pedestrian survey for surface cultural resources in the previously undisturbed areas was conducted from November 30, 1999 through December 17, 1999. No cultural resources were found.

Reclamation submitted to the SHPO a survey report that described the absence of cultural resources at the proposed construction location, results of site surveys performed, and mitigation measures to be implemented during construction if cultural resources are encountered. Reclamation requested concurrence regarding Reclamation's determination of potential effects and proposed approach to deal with cultural resources for the Proposed Action. The SHPO concurred with Reclamation's findings and recommendations by lack of response during the allotted 30-day comment period.

The Pueblos of Cochiti, Isleta, Sandia, San Felipe, Santa Ana, and Santo Domingo were consulted on September 3, 1999 regarding the potential effect of the proposed project to Indian Trust Assets, traditional cultural properties, or sacred sites. The Pueblo of Sandia provided written comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project. The letter from the Pueblo of Sandia, dated September 27, 1999, indicated their wishes to coordinate with Reclamation. Reclamation and the Pueblo of Sandia met to discuss the Proposed Action and the City's plans for the Drinking Water Project.

CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Changes included in the final EA consisted of clarifications, additional or corrected information, and recommendations that were provided in written comment letters.

FINDING

Based on a thorough review of the comments received, evaluation of the environmental impacts as presented in the final EA, and the environmental commitments presented in the final EA, Reclamation concludes that the implementation of the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the human environment and does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

This Finding Of No Significant Impact has, therefore, been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the proposed project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

RECOMMENDED:

Environment and Lands Division Manager **Date**
Albuquerque, New Mexico

APPROVED:

Area Manager **Date**
Albuquerque, New Mexico

AAO-01-02
FONSI Number